



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 422/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: MR Ben Robert Campbell-Wilson

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 3382 ON PLAN 120539 (BROOMEHILL WEST 6318)
Local Government Area: Shire Of Broomehill
Colloquial name: Kojonup Location 3382

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	18	Mechanical Removal	Building or Structure

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Beard Unit 4: Medium woodland; marri & wandoo	The vegetation under application consists of eighteen paddock trees. Species consist of paddock trees only being a mixture of marri (<i>Corymbia calophylla</i>) and wandoo (<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>). Pasture species dominated the groundcover.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	Belinda Walker (DoE) and Judith Carter (DoE) undertook initial field visit on 8 March 2005. The proponent did not accompany the officers.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The area consists of isolated paddock trees and small stands spread across the location. It is not representative of vegetation considered to be of a high level of biological diversity.

Methodology EPA (2000)
DoE site visit (2005).

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
Department of Environment site visit (2005) indicates that the vegetation may provide some habitat for fringe fauna species, however the level of disturbance within the site is likely to limit the habitat value of the vegetation.

CALM report:

'Fauna species recorded in the local area (10km radius) include: P4 Western Brush Wallaby *Macropus irma* from the nearby Ngopitchup Nature Reserve (vested with the Water and Rivers Commission for water and nature conservation).'

'Isolated paddock trees are known to provide a number of ecosystem services in landscapes which have undergone extensive native vegetation clearing. The general decline in the health of isolated trees and remnant vegetation patches can be attributed to clearing, tree senescence and premature mortality or dieback (Gibbons

& Boak, 2000). To sustain vulnerable populations of local fauna it is important to conserve isolated paddock trees and larger areas of remnant vegetation.'

'Based on the known habitat requirements and behaviour of the Western Brush Wallaby, (the only priority listed fauna recorded from the area) this vegetation is unlikely to provide suitable habitat for this species. It is likely that these trees are utilised by a number of endemic avian fauna species for foraging and breeding habitat, although aerial photography suggests that there is other suitable vegetation in the area to provide alternative habitat for such fauna.'

'Therefore there is a low probability of this proposal being at variance with this principle.'

Methodology CALM report (2005).
DoE site visit (2005).
Gibbons, P & Boak, M. (2000).
GIS database:
- Threatened and Priority fauna - CALM (CALM 2004)*.
*This citation signifies that we do not have access to this database and that our use of it is through the CALM advice provided.

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, significant flora.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
No Declared Rare or Priority Flora species are mapped within the local area (10km radius).

There is a low probability of the proposed clearing being at variance with this principle.

The vegetation under application consists of eighteen paddock trees being a mixture of mature marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) and wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*). Pasture species dominated the groundcover.

CALM report (2005):
'The proposed clearing is restricted to approximately 18 isolated paddock trees, where the native under story is no longer present. There are no records of either priority or declared rare flora species within 10km of the proposed clearing, therefore there is a low probability of DRF and/or Priority flora being impacted by this proposal.'

Methodology CALM report (2005).
GIS databases:
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 13/08/03
- Herbarium Specimen Collection Database - CALM (CALM 2004)*
- Threatened Flora Data Management System - CALM (CALM 2004)*.
*This citation signifies that we do not have access to this database and that our use of it is through the CALM advice provided.

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a significant ecological community.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
There are no records of Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) or Threatened Plant Communities (TPC) within the local area (10km radius).

There is a low probability of the proposed clearing being at variance with this principle.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03
- Threatened Plant Communities - DEP 06/95.

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Comments **Proposal is at variance to this Principle**
The application is located in the Jarrah Forest Bioregion in the Shire of Broomehill. The extent of native vegetation in these areas is 58.3% and 9.5% respectively (Shepherd et al. 2001).

	Pre-European (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining (%)*	Conservation** status
IBRA Bioregion - Jarrah Forest***	4 503 156	2 624 301	58.3	Least Concern

Shire of Broomehill	119 170	11 265	9.5	Endangered
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Vegetation type:

Beard: Unit 4	1 247 834	292 993	23.5	Vulnerable
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* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

*** Within the Intensive Landuse Zone

State Government is committed to the National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation which includes a target that prevents clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present pre-1750 (Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002); EPA (2000)).

As the area under application is for eighteen paddock trees it is not considered to be representative of the above mentioned Beard vegetation type.

Methodology Shepherd et al. (2001)
EPA (2000)
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
GIS databases:
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EM 18/10/00
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01
- Local Government Authorities - DLI 8/07/04

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
Proposed clearing is 14m from a second order watercourse within the property.

The proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact on the watercourse within the property.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Hydrography Linear - DoE 1/2/04

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments **Proposal may be at variance to this Principle**
There is no information regarding Acid Sulphate Soils on the property. Groundwater salinity is mapped at 14000 - 35000 mg/L. This is a low rainfall, high evaporation area with high groundwater salinity.

The area under application is in a salinity risk area, however, the removal of eighteen paddock trees will not significantly increase land salinisation.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, SCP - DoE 01/02/04
- Salinity Mapping LM 25m - DOLA 00
- Salinity Monitoring LM 50m - DOLA 00
- Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00.
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/00

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**
There are no CALM managed lands or conservation reserves in the local area (10km radius).

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04
- Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03
- System 6 Conservation Reserves - DEP 06/95
- System 1-5 and 7-12 Areas - DEP 06/95.

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The proposed clearing is not within a gazetted public drinking water supply area and is not likely to significantly degrade water quality.

Methodology GIS databases:

- Evaporation Isopleth - BOM 09/98
- Hydrogeology, statewide - WRC 05/02/02
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - DoE 1/6/04
- Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01
- Soils, statewide - DA 11/99
- WIN Groundwater sites, other - DEWCP (Current)
- WIN Groundwater sites, other - non DEWCP (Current)

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence of flooding.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Flooding impacts are unlikely to occur as the proposed clearing consists of eighteen paddock trees.

Methodology DoE site visit (2005).

Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

No planning issues or other issues have been raised by the Shire of Broomehill.

The property is zoned Farming.

Methodology GIS database:

- Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 8/98.

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Building or Structure	Mechanical Removal	18	Grant	Recommended that the permit is granted. The proposal is at variance to Principle (e), however, the vegetation is not representative of the mentioned Beard Vegetation type. The proposal may be at variance to Principle (g) as the area under application is in a salinity risk area, however, the potential impacts will not significantly increase salinity, as the application is for eighteen trees.

5. References

CALM Land clearing proposal advice. Advice to A/Director General, Department of Environment (DoE). Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref SWO24374.

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales ; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.

EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority.

Gibbons, P & Boak, M. (2000). The importance of paddock trees for regional conservation in agricultural landscapes. NSW National ParksAnd Wildlife Service.NSW.

Keighery, BJ (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.